

Claims 1-33 are allowed and will remain as numbered upon allowance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey Proehl on 1-11-2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Currently Amended) The gray-water reuse system as in claim 14, wherein said pressure stabilizing means further comprises:

said pressure valve being elongate and having a first end and a second end, said pressure valve having a first inlet port, said first inlet port being generally positioned in a central portion of said pressure valve, a second inlet port being located generally adjacent to said second end of said pressure valve, an exit port being in said second end of said pressure valve, a stopper being slidably removable within said pressure valve, said stopper comprising a seal between said first and second inlet ports, said stopper having a biasing means thereon for biasing said stopper toward said second inlet port, said biasing means being a spring, said spring being coupled to a rod, said rod being rotatably inserted in said first end of said pressure valve, said rod being threaded;

a first pipe, said first pipe having a first and second end, said first pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said first inlet port, said first pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first pipe second end being positioned between said first valve and said first one-way valve;

a second pipe, said second pipe having a first and second end, said second pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said fresh water inlet, said second pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said second inlet port; and

a third pipe, said third pipe having a first end and a second end, said third pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said exit port, said third pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first one-way valve being between said first and third pipes, said third pipe having a second one-way valve such that fluid traveling through said third pipe travels in a direction from said third pipe first end toward said third pipe second end.

- Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently Amended) A gray-water reuse system, said system comprising:
a reservoir, said reservoir having a top side and a bottom side, said reservoir having an intake pipe, an outlet pipe and overflow pipe, said outlet pipe being positioned generally adjacent to said bottom side of said reservoir, said overflow pipe being positioned generally adjacent to said top side of said reservoir;

an inlet for supplying gray-water to said reservoir, said inlet being fluidly coupled to said intake pipe;

a pumping means for pumping said gray-water from said reservoir;

a first valve for controlling flow of said gray-water from said pumping means, said first valve having a first end, a second end and middle section, said first valve having a first and second plug therein, said first plug being positioned between said first end and said middle section, said second plug being positioned between said second end and said middle section, said first end being fluidly coupled to said pumping means by a pipe, said second end being fluidly coupled to a fresh water inlet, a middle section of said first valve being fluidly coupled to a processed gray-water outlet, wherein fluid entering said first valve exits through said gray-water outlet, said first valve having a water pressure sensing means therein for detecting a loss of water pressure, said water pressure sensing means being generally adjacent to said first end of said valve, said first valve having an actuating means therein for moving said second plug between an open and a closed position, said actuating means being a solenoid, said solenoid being operationally coupled to said water pressure sensing means, wherein if the pressure of said processed gray-water falls said solenoid will open said second plug such that water from said fresh water inlet may enter said gray-water outlet, said gray-water outlet having a first one-way valve therein for allowing flow of water in a first direction away from said first valve, said gray-water outlet adapted to supply water to a toilet and a lawn watering system;

a pressure stabilizing means for stabilizing the pressure of the gray- water leaving said gray-water outlet, said stabilizing means comprising:

a pressure valve, said pressure valve being elongate and having a first end and a second end, said pressure valve having a first inlet port, said first inlet port being generally positioned in a central portion of said pressure valve, a second inlet port being located generally adjacent to said second end of said pressure valve, an exit port being in said second end of said pressure valve, a

stopper being slidably movable within said pressure valve, said stopper comprising a seal between said first and second inlet ports, said stopper having a biasing means thereon for biasing said stopper toward said second inlet port, said biasing means being a spring, said spring being coupled to a rod, said rod being rotatably inserted in said first end of said pressure valve, said rod being threaded;

a first pipe, said first pipe having a first and second end, said first pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said first inlet port, said first pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first pipe second end being positioned between said first valve and said first one-way valve;

a second pipe, said second pipe having a first and second end, said second pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said fresh water inlet, said second pipe end being fluidly coupled to said second inlet port;

a third pipe, said third pipe having a first end and a second end, said third pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said exit port, said third pipe, second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first one-way valve being between said first and third pipes, said third pipe having a second one-way valve such that fluid traveling through said third pipe travels in a direction from said third pipe, first end toward said third pipe second end; and

wherein said pressure valve may be selectively adjusted to increase or decrease the water pressure of said gray-water outlet.

- Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

26. (Currently Amended) The gray-water reuse system as in claim 25, wherein said pressure stabilizing means further comprises:

said pressure valve being elongate and having a first end and a second end, said pressure valve having a first inlet port, said first inlet port being generally positioned in a central portion of said pressure valve, a second inlet port being located generally adjacent to said second end of said pressure valve, an exit port being in said second end of said pressure valve, a stopper being slidably movable within said pressure valve, said stopper comprising a seal between said first and second inlet ports, said stopper having a biasing means thereon for biasing said stopper toward said second inlet port, said biasing means being a spring, said spring being coupled to a rod, said rod being rotatably inserted in said first end of said pressure valve, said rod being threaded;

a first pipe, said first pipe having a first and second end, said first pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said first inlet port, said first pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first pipe second end being positioned between said first valve and said first one-way valve;

a second pipe, said second pipe having a first and second end, said second pipe first pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said fresh water inlet, said second pipe first pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said second inlet port; and

a third pipe, said third pipe having a first end and a second end, said third pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said exit port, said third pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first one-way valve being between said first and third pipes, said third pipe

having a second one-way valve such that fluid traveling through said third pipe travels in a direction from said third pipe first end toward said third pipe second end.

- Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (Currently Amended) A gray-water reuse system, said system comprising:
an inlet for supplying gray-water to said system;
a pumping means for pumping said gray-water from said inlet;
a first valve for controlling flow of said gray-water from said pumping means, said first valve having a first end, a second end and middle section, said first valve having a first and second plug therein, said first plug being positioned between said first end and said middle section, said second plug being positioned between said second end and said middle section, said first end being fluidly coupled to said pumping means by a pipe, said second end being fluidly coupled to a fresh water inlet, a middle section of said first valve being fluidly coupled to a gray-water outlet, wherein fluid entering said first valve exits through said gray-water outlet, said first valve having a water pressure sensing means therein for detecting a loss of water pressure, said water pressure sensing means being generally adjacent to said first end of said valve, said first valve having an actuating means therein for moving said second plug between an open and a closed position, said actuating means being a solenoid, said solenoid being operationally coupled to said water pressure sensing means, wherein if the pressure of said gray-water falls said solenoid will open said second plug such that water from said fresh water inlet may enter said gray-water outlet, said gray-water outlet having a first one-way valve therein for allowing flow of water in a

first direction away from said first valve, said gray-water outlet adapted to supply water to a toilet and a lawn watering system;

a pressure stabilizing means for stabilizing the pressure of the gray-water leaving said gray-water outlet, said stabilizing means comprising:

a pressure valve, said pressure valve being elongate and having a first end and a second end, said pressure valve having a first inlet port, said first inlet port being generally positioned in a central portion of said pressure valve, a second inlet port being located generally adjacent to said second end of said pressure valve, an exit port being in said second end of said pressure valve, a stopper being slidably movable within said pressure valve, said stopper comprising a seal between said first and second inlet ports, said stopper having a biasing means thereon for biasing said stopper toward said second inlet port, said biasing means being a spring, said spring being coupled to a rod, said rod being rotatably inserted in said first end of said pressure valve, said rod being threaded;

a first pipe, said first pipe having a first and second end, said first pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said first inlet port, said first pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first pipe second end being positioned between said first valve and said first one-way valve;

a second pipe, said second pipe having a first and second end, said second pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said fresh water inlet, said second pipe second end being fluidly coupled to said second inlet port;

a third pipe, said third pipe having a first end and a second end, said third pipe first end being fluidly coupled to said exit port, said third pipe, second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-

water outlet, said first one-way valve being between said first and third pipes, said third pipe having a second one-way valve such that fluid traveling through said third pipe travels in a direction from said third pipe, first end toward said third pipe second end; and
wherein said pressure valve may be selectively adjusted to increase or decrease the water pressure of said gray-water outlet.

- Claim 31 has been amended as follows:

31. (Currently Amended) The gray-water reuse system as in claim 29, wherein said pressure stabilizing means stabilizes the pressure of the gray-water leaving said gray-water outlet and further comprises a pressure valve that includes said first and second inlet ports and said exit port and is adapted to manually control the flow of water from said fresh water inlet into said gray-water outlet.

- Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

33. (Currently Amended) The gray-water reuse system as in claim 29, wherein said pressure stabilizing means stabilizes the pressure of the gray-water outlet and further comprises a pressure valve that includes said first and second inlet ports and said exit port and is adapted to manually control the flow of water from said fresh water inlet into said gray-water outlet.

- Specification, in the paragraph added in the amendment of 11-5-2007, after the paragraph ending on line 58 of column 1:

As used through this disclosure, the term "gray-water" is meant to include non-potable water. Illustrative examples of such non-potable water include water reclaimed from a prior use (showers, sinks, washing machines, dishwashers and the like), or may come from other sources prior to treatment for human consumption (wells, dams, rivers, lakes, and the like).

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Claims 1-33 are allowed for reasons given in the prior office action.
- The new declaration filed 12-22-2009 including a proper error statement is approved.
- The indicated paragraph of the specification was amended to include a missing ")" present in a previous submission of the paragraph.
- Claim 15 was amended to correct a typo in the spelling of the word "pressure" and to include the phrase "a stopper being slidably removable within said pressure valve" after line 7 that was included in the originally presented new claim but inadvertently omitted in the most recent claim set. In claim 17 "top" was amended to correct a typo in the spelling thereof (line 7) and in the fifth line from the end of the claim, "b" was amended to include inadvertently missing letters and words that were present in the originally presented new claim. In Claim 26, third line from the end of the claim a typo in the spelling of the word "fluid" was corrected. Claim 28 was amended such that the forth line of the claim was underlined too. In claims 31 and 33, "exit valve" was replaced with "exit port" to be consistent with the term used in the independent claim 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Terry K. Cecil whose telephone number is (571) 272-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a-4:30p M-F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mr. Terry K. Cecil/
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